

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, ETRD, CA

SUBJECT: EC/CANADA AGREEMENT

REF: EC BRUSSELS 8435

1. THE EC COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES (COREPER) WILL ON OCTOBER 2 TAKE UP THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR AN AGREEMENT WITH CANADA. THE FOUR MEETINGS OF THE COMMERCIAL PROBLEMS SUBGROUP, AS NOTED IN REFTEL, HAD THE EFFECT OF STIMULATING DOUBTS AMONG MEMBER STATES ABOUT THE FORM SUGGESTED BY THE COMMISSION FOR THE AGREEMENT. A COMMISSION SOURCE SOUTBS THAT THE COREPER WILL BE ABLE TO SETTLE THE ISSUES THAT HAVE ARISEN, AND BELIEVES THEREFORE THAT THE PROBLEMS WILL HAVE TO BE REFERRED AGAIN TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

2. THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM IS INSTITUTIONAL. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL, FRANCE AND BRITAIN HAVE OPPOSED ALLOWING THE COMMISSION TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT OF THE SORT IT HAS PROPOSED. AND ALTERNATIE CONCLUSION OF THE AGREEMENT BY THE COMMISSION AND THE NINE MEMBER STATES HAS BEEN PROPOSED. THIS PROPOSAL IS MUCH DIS-

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LIKED BY THE COMMISSION. A COMMISSION STAFF MEMBER

NOTES THAT WHILE THE CANADIAN REACTION TO SUCH A WAY OF PROCEEDING IS NOT KNOWN, IN HIS VIEW IT WOULD NOT FIT WELL WITH THE PROFESSED CANADIAN DESIRE TO SUPPLEMENT OLD BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES WITH A CLOSED CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY.

3. IN THE COURSE OF THE MEETINGS OF THE COREPER COMMERCIAL QUESTIONS SUBGROUP, IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED THAT THE EVENTUAL EC/CANADA AGREEMENT NOT SPECIFICALLY STATE SECTORS IN WHICH COOPERATION COULD TAKE PLACE. (THE COMMISSION PROPOSED FOREST PRODUCTS, URANIUM AND NON-FERROUS METALS, AS ILLUSTRATIONS.) THE ARGUMENT IS THAT IT IS PREMATURE SO TO SPECIFY. THE COMMISSION IS NOT AVERSE TO DROPPING ITS ILLUSTRATIVE LIST, SO LONG AS IT IS LEFT CLEAR THAT THERE IS SOME SUBSTANTIVE MEANING TO THE PROPOSALS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION. GREENWALD

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